

GPPARTNERS' BULLETIN

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From the Chair

It has been a busy month with Local Area Group meetings. The meetings have been rather tight as far as time goes but we are hoping to be able to dedicate part of future meetings to interaction and discussion for GPs. As GPs even in large practices, we can sometimes become isolated and not have the opportunity to voice our concerns or to be able to bounce ideas off one another. Solutions to problems can often be found through discussion with peers who have similar issues.



Take advantage of the discussion time at the LAG meetings. It is one of the advantages of not being funded by Government or others that GPpartners doesn't have to follow a specific agenda. We are here as a membership organisation to support GPs.

Thank you for all your support so far with attendance at the LAG meetings and joining GPpartners. Remember if you are not a member yet it is as easy as filling in a form available on our website www.gppartners.com.au

Dr Jayne Ingham

Date Claimers

"Managing Behaviour Issues in Children"

Our topic for discussion at our upcoming April LAG meeting.

Look out for further information and Registration forms in the coming weeks!

NOT YET A GPPARTNERS MEMBER?

Membership forms available on our website or email us direct to request an application form!

contact@gppartners.com.au



GPpartners Executive Officer retiring....

Many of you who have attended the LAG meetings will have met **Alana Pelly**, Executive Officer of GPpartners. Alana has taken GPpartners from the rocky time of change from a Division of General practice to a GP member organisation. We were bobbing around in the sea for a while until we had our feet more firmly planted on the ground and knew the direction we were heading.

Alana has helped with the establishment of GPpartners mark 2. Alana now feels it is time to retire and take up babysitting duties with her new grand niece as well as many other pursuits.

GPpartners board would like to thank Alana for her dedication and significant contribution to GPpartners and wish her well in the future.

Local Area Group After Hours meeting at Brother's Leagues Club 28th February.

Over 70 people attended the discussion about the provision of After Hours Services. After the presentation by Abbe Anderson CEO of MNBML on how the PIP payments are going to be distributed to General Practices, Dr Eleanor Chew Chair of RACGP Qld and Vice President of RACGP told us about the must read book of RACGP standards, particularly the chapter on provision of after hours services. Dr Richard Kidd, representing the AMA, discussed the issues around after hours care and finally Dr Beres Wenk director on the board of Family Care presented information about their After Hours Service .

Dr Abhi Varshney, a Board Director of GPpartners, facilitated the event with questions to the panel provided prior to the evening as well as from the attendees. There was a lively discussion and some contentious issues explored. I jotted down some issues.

Funding The Medicare Local has been provided some funding for the administration of the PIP payment but this doesn't come out of the total pool of PIP money.

The issue that GPs lose money on providing after hours services. Dr Richard Kidd AMA response:- The AMA fees go up with CPI but the MBS rebate is less than CPI. At present GPs bulk bill 80% of their patients so no incentive for the government to increase rebate. GPs need to decrease their BB rate.

Fee for service model. The PIP payment is an incentive payment: need to charge the appropriate fee to cover costs.

GPs are paying more to the deputising service than the PIP payment. As more services become available there may be more competition and a decrease in fees.

he Medicare Local is going to need some data from General practices to show if they are providing an after hours service. The data collection from General Practices is going to cause extra work: is this cost going to be covered? No: but if you contract with Family Care they will provide that data to the Medicare Local. The Medicare Local cannot obtain the data directly from Medicare.

Standards: To meet the RACGP standards your patients need to have access to acceptable care after hours. The practice needs to have a formal agreement with an accredited after hours service unless the GP does their own after hours calls. The question was asked whether the ED department or the number of the Medicare Local was adequate. The answer was No.

GPpartners wishes to thank the Panel Members and acknowledge the sponsorship of the two LAG meetings about Provision of After Hours Services by the MNBML.

If you have any questions about the PIP payment for After Hours Services please contact the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local. Phone 3630 7300 or email afterhours@mnbl.com.au.

LAG meetings on the 5th of March

The Dermoscopy evening run by GPpartners and Leo Pharma was a great success with 40 GPs attending. GPs attending the meeting at North lakes with Psychiatrist Dr Guha learned about depression in a patient with a personality disorder sponsored by Astra Zeneca. It was felt by the GPs that both sessions were so good that they should be repeated in the other LAG areas. We will be discussing the opportunities with both sponsors.

BREAKING NEWS ... new business rules for HMRs announced

The Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek today announced new business rules for Home Medicines Reviews. The new rules have been developed by the Department of Health and Ageing and the Pharmacy Guild after consultation with other stakeholders, including SHPA.

The changes which come into effect on 15 March 2013 and are outlined on the [SCPA website](#) are:

- Patient interview must occur in the patient's home; interviews conducted in an alternate location will not be remunerated unless prior approval has been granted.
- Patient interview must be conducted by an accredited pharmacist; a registered pharmacist may conduct the interview step only if prior approval has been granted.
- Claims for Services must be submitted within a set timeframe
- Improved audit and compliance arrangements
- Measures taken to ensure informed patient consent

[Health Minister's media release](#)

[Pharmacy Guild of Australia's media release](#)

Managing Behaviour Issues in children

Does your heart sink when a parent brings in a child with the request from school to have a diagnosis made because the child is difficult to manage in the classroom? For the school to obtain extra funding a diagnosis needs to be made. Where do you start? Covering the basics. Can the child hear? What is their vision like? Is their speech appropriate for their age? What about their height and weight, gross motor skills, fine motor skills?

Where does the school guidance officer fit in? Is there such a position at this school? What sort of assessment has been done by the school?

There seems to be more questions than answers.

We hope to answer your questions at the GPpartners Local Area Group meeting in April at North Lakes. In collaboration with Caboolture Hospital Paediatrician Dr Prasanna Shirkhedkar we are having a forum on Diagnosis and Management of Behaviour Issues in Children. When the details of the event are finalised look out for an email or fax coming to you.

Forty GPs attended a meeting on Dermatoscopy skills at the Jephson Hotel on Tuesday the 5th of March.

The meeting was sponsored by LeoPharma . There was an excellent scientific presentation of the new topical treatment for solar keratoses , Picato to commence the evening.

Dr Cliff Rosendahl and Dr Alan Cameron both Brisbane GPs who now work largely in the field of skin cancer medicine then presented.

The presentation was highly organised and evidence based on the use of the "Chaos & Clues " algorithm in guiding GPs when using a dermatoscope in clinical practice.

The information presented was highly relevant and challenged those present to continue to improve their existing skills .

Several pathways towards this continued improvement were discussed including attending the more complete skin cancer medicine weekends and courses organised by UQ and the Skin Cancer College of Australasia.

Murray Bingham

LAG Coordinator Brisbane West

Letter received from The Prince Charles Hospital.....

We have received a letter from Dr Stephen Ayre, Executive Director Medical Services at the Prince Charles Hospital which we have been asked to distribute to our fellow GP's.

“Following a recent internal review at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) it was highlighted that currently, if a GP requires an URGENT gastroenterological investigative procedure to be booked there can be ambiguity in the process a GP can undertake to ensure this is organised expediently. Therefore I am writing to provide a process that local GP's can follow to ensure urgent requests can be made at TPCH. This process is:

In urgent cases a GP can phone the hospital switch and speak directly with either a gastroenterology or surgical consultant or registrar. The hospital has an on-call gastroenterology and surgical medical officer on-call 24 hours.

Please contact Dr Helen Ward, Director Patient Safety (TPCH) on 3139 5829 if you require clarification of this process.